

ALABAMA BAPTIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MINUTES

OF THE

FIFTIETH ANNUAL SESSION

of the

BETHELMHEM BAPTIST ASSOCIATION,

HELD WITH THE

ARKADELPHIA BAPTIST CHURCH,

CONECUH COUNTY, ALA.

Commencing September, 22d. 1866.

EVERGREEN,

"BANNER OFFICE," *Print.*

1866.

ORDER OF BUSINESS :

First. The Moderator and Clerk hold their offices from the election (of those officers) at one session until the election at the next session, whose duty it is to occupy their offices at the coming together of the next Association, and proceed regularly to the organization.

Second. The Moderator to call the Association to order ; or, if absent, by motion, the vacancy of the Moderator or Clerk may be filled temporarily, by any brother present.

Third. Singing and prayer at the opening of each day's session.

Fourth. Delegates to come forward, with letters or evidence of election, enroll their names ; letters read, and statistical matter noted by the Clerk.

Fifth. The Association proceed to organization by electing Moderator and Clerk, and the newly elected to take their seats.

Sixth. Preaching Committee appointed.

Seventh. Visiting Brethren from other Associations, not delegated, invited to seats, only upon the voice of a majority of the body.

Eighth. Delegates from newly constituted Churches, present evidences or petitionary letters, to be acted on ; statistical matter noted ; the name of the Church entered upon the calender ; the hand of fellowship extended by the Moderator on behalf of the Association ; the delegates to enroll their names, being entitled then to all the privileges of any member of the body.

Ninth. Call for correspondence ; Clerk to note whatever response, either messenger, minutes, letters, or all.

Tenth. Visiting Brethren only share in suggesting and discussing questions ; not privileged to vote, second motions or introduce matter.

Eleventh. The appointment of Standing Committees announced at the convenience of the Moderator.

Twelfth. Committee on Preaching report at pleasure, to meet the exigency.

Thirteenth. Before adjourning, announce service for the day following, thus closing business for Saturday.

Fourteenth. The Minutes to be read and approved on the next morning of business, if not at the close of the day's session, unless ordered differently.

Fifteenth. Report in order from Standing or Select Committees ; and the Committee can report at any time, when no motion is pending.

Sixteenth. The Committee on Finance to receive funds forwarded to the Association, from any source, by calling the names of each church in their order, note object of contribution, and give due credit.

Seventeenth. Resolutions in order now at any time, at the pleasure of the mover, no other business being under consideration.

Eighteenth. Correspondence arranged, and Messengers appointed, or elected.

Nineteenth. Report from Finance Committee in order.

Twentieth. The Association to order the disbursement of the funds entrusted for Missions, etc.

Twenty-first. Treasurer's Report in order.

Twenty-second. Elect the Church with which to hold the next Association.

Twenty-third. Elect Treasurer.

Twenty-fourth. Elect for the preaching of the next Introductory Sermon, with alternate.

Twenty-fifth. Fix the salary of the Clerk; arrange for printing and disbursing minutes.

Twenty-sixth. Make pledges; adjourn to meet with the church elect; singing and prayer; Moderator and Clerk sign the Minutes.

NAMES OF MINISTERS.

A. J. Lambert.....	Claiborne.	T. Bennett.....	Garland.
J. McWilliams.....	Monroeville.	N. Parker.....	Oaky Street.
Geo. L. Lee.....	Burnt Corn.	J. P. Myers....	Garland.
W. C. Morrow.....	Evergreen.	C. L. Thornton	Brooklyn.
A. Jay.....	Sparta.	J. L. Bryers....	Bluff Springs.
A. W. Jones.....	Evergreen.	J. F. Cook.....	Brooklyn.
J. Smith.....	Belleville.	Emanuel Clines.	Belleville.
Z. Williams.....	Brooklyn.	Moor Wood....	Belleville.
P. S. Milner.....	Georgianna.	Simeon Maxwell.	Sepulga.
	W. G. Curry.....	Pineville.	

MINUTES

OF THE

BETHLEHEM BAPTIST ASSOCIATION.

THE Delegates from the Churches composing the BETHLEHEM BAPTIST ASSOCIATION, having convened with the ARKADELPHIA CHURCH; a Sermon, Introductory to the session was preached by Eld. G. L. LEE, from middle clause, 39 ver. 13 ch Mathew, "The harvest is the end of the World."

After a recess the Delegates reassembled in the Meeting-house—were called to order by the former Moderator, Eld. G. L. Lee.

Prayer by Elder K. Hawthorne.

Appointed Elder A. Jay, Y. M. Rabb, R. P. Stallworth, D. M. McNeil to read the letters.

Letters were read, contents noted and names of Delegates enrolled. (See tabular statement.)

The Association was organized by the election of Elder G. L. Lee Moderator, and S. Maxwell Clerk.

Called for Correspondence:

From Alabama Association, Elder J. E. Bell.

" Pine Barren	"	" K, Hawthorne,	Minutes.
" Providence	"	" K. Hawthorne,	"
" Bethel	"	" J. Talbert,	"

Appointed Standing Committees:

ON PREACHING.—F. Straughn, T. R. Pope, A. Lambert and the Deacons of the Arkadelphia Church.

ON SABBATH SCHOOLS.—Elder P. S. Milner, Wm. Watson, Elder A. W. Jones, Y. M. Rabb and W. C. Nevel.

ON STATE OF RELIGION AND DIGEST OF LETTERS.—J. M. Travis, D. M. McNeil, Elder E. Clines, J. Norred and P. Mason.

ON CORRESPONDENCE.—R. P. Stallworth, S. Maxwell, M. Wimberly and B. Stamps.

ON QUERIES AND REQUESTS.—Elder W. C. Morrow, Elder J. M. Wood, J. S. Martin, T. Emmons and J. Griffin.

ON RELATION WITH COLORED PEOPLE.—Elder A. Jay, Elder W. C. Morrow, F. Straughn, B. Stamps, R. R. Mosley, Y. M. Rabb and S. C. Johnson.

REPORT ON PREACHING:—

Elder J. E. Bell, this afternoon, W. G. Curry, at night, K. Haw-

thorne, Sabbath morning and J. Talbert, afternoon.

Adjourned to Monday morning 9 o'clock.

Prayer by Elder J. Talbert.

SABBATH, 23, Sept.

The Brethren preached in the order of their appointments, and after the forenoon service, a collection was taken among the congregation for Missions ; result, \$23 35.

MONDAY MORNING, 9 o'clock, Sept, 24.

Met according to adj. u. n. n. t.

Prayer by the Moderator.

Minutes were read and approved.

The Moderator in consequence of illness, called B. Stamps to the chair and retired.

Report of Standing Committees :

STATE OF RELIGION AND DIGEST OF LETTERS ; received and adopted (See, Appendix, A.)

SABBATH SCHOOLS. Report received and recommitted to a special committee, viz : Elder A. Jay, R. R. Mosley, Y. M. Rabb and Elder W. C. Morrow.

RELATION WITH COLORED PEOPLE, Report received and, after a lengthy and elaborate discussion; *pro* and *con*, was adopted. (App. D.)

SABBATH SCHOOLS, Report received and adopted, (App. C.) and in consequence, appointed the following committees : 1st. District, Elders A. J. Lambert and W. G. Curry ; 2d. district, Elders A. Jay and G. L. Lee ; 3d. district, A. J. Robinson and W. C. Morrow ; 4th. district, S. Maxwell and B. Stamps.

Appointed Correspondence.

TO THE STATE CONVENTION.—Elders P. S. Milner, A. Jay, W. C. Morrow, and F. Straughlin.

TO PINE BARREN ASSOCIATION.—Elders W. G. Curry, G. L. Lee, and R. P. Stallworth.

TO THE ALABAMA ASSOCIATION.—Elder A. Jay, N. Stallworth and M. Wimberly.

TO ZION ASSOCIATION.—G. J. Scott, W. Bush, Chas. Williams, Elders A. Jay and A. W. Jones.

PROVIDENCE ASSOCIATION.—Elder A. J. Lambert.

BETHEL " A. M. Lambert.

Adjourned to Tuesday Morning, 9 o'clock.

Prayer by Elder J. E. Bell.

TUESDAY MORNING, Sept. 25, 9 o'clock.

Met according to adjournment.

Elder G. L. Lee, resumed his seat as Moderator.

Prayer by Elder A. Jay.

Report on Domestic Mission, received and adopted. (App. B.)

A *Resolution* adopted by the General Meeting convening with the NEW PROSPECT CHURCH, viz: "Pledging themselves to pray to ALMIGHTY GOD, in behalf of the Churches," was noticed by the Body, as a move in the right direction.

Motion to strike out the eleventh article in the "Order of Business;" carried.

Moved. That the 4th, article of the Constitution of this Association be amended, by striking out the word *fifty*, and insert the words, *twenty-five*, also insert in the 2d, line, before the word *members*, the word *white* and in the 3d, line of said article, after the word *additional*, the words *twenty-five white members*.

Report, Finance Committee received and adopted. (App. E.)

Resolved: That the Committee on Correspondence be dispensed with in future, and a letter to corresponding bodies be printed in our Minutes.

Moved: That Forty Dollars be expended for Minutes and that the Clerk receive the balance of the Minute fund for his services.

Moved: That the salary of the Clerk be increased to twenty-five dollars, the residue to be raised by the body.

Moved: That the Committee on Foreign Missions be revived, and that a committee be appointed one year in advance; appointed, Elder W. C. Morrow, B. Stamps and Elder A. Jay, as that Committee.

Appointed, Committee on Domestic Missions: Elders S. Maxwell, P. S. Milner and A. W. Jones.

Moved: That the Mission money be forwarded to M. T. Sumner at Marion.

Received the Corresponding Letters

Appointed Elder A. W. Jones to preach the Introductory Sermon at the next Association, and S. Maxwell Alternate.

Elected, R. P. Stallworth. Treasurer.

Report: Treasurer received and adopted. (App. F.)

Resolved: That the Association recommend to the Churches, to send Delegates to the General Meetings in their respective districts, and with their Delegates a letter giving the religious condition of the Church, also, invite Ministers from other districts to attend.

Appointed times and places for the General Meetings:

1st. District, Salem, Friday before 2d. Sabbath, Sept 1867.

2d. " Belleville, " " 4th, " July, "

3d. " Brooklyn, " " 2d, " Dec. 1866.

4th. " Georgianna, " " 4th, " July, 1867.

The business of the Association was suspended to hear Elder J. B. Hawthorne preach, after which the Association adjourned a very harmonious and interesting session, to meet with the Evergreen Church, Saturday before the 4th, Sabbath in Sept, 1867.

Concluding prayer by S. Maxwell.

G. L. LEE, *Moderator.*

S. MAXWELL, *Clerk.*

APPENDIX :

(A.) State of Religion and Digest of Letters.

Your Committee report that we find nothing of special importance presented in the Letters of the individual churches to this body. We rejoice to know that peace seems to prevail throughout the churches, but we regret to find that the state of Religion seems to be in a cold and languishing condition in almost every church ; we do trust and pray that the Great Head of the church, will soon revive the work of religion again in his moral vineyard, and that we shall soon be able to rejoice and see Zion travail and bring forth once more. Respectfully submitted,

J. M. TRAVIS, Chairman.

(B.) Domestic Mission Report.

This board was appointed at the last Association, and it was made their duty to take under their charge and provide if possible, a suitable ministerial supply for what might be considered the destitute portion of the Association, for at least three months; and as much longer as the means might allow. For this object, only a small amount of means was raised in cash, and by pledges at the last Association. In the opinion of the board, the field to be occupied, embraced the territory extending from Pollard to Pensacola, embracing a portion of Baldwin county, the Navy Yard and Milton, and to procure the services of a minister, who not only would be acceptable, but calculated to teach, preach and inculcate Baptist doctrines and discipline, with a view to the building up of the cause permanently, was the first object to be obtained by the board, and to accomplish this, we cast about in the way of inquiry, and at the District Meeting held at Beleville, we had our first meeting, up to which time we had failed to obtain the services of a minister for the field. At that meeting, upon consultation we decided, from the small amount of means within our control; and our inability to procure a laborer for the field, and further, from the late period at which the Minutes were distributed among the Churches, (no action being taken by the Churches to supply the means necessary) that we could not carry out the intention of the Association in supplying the field. Owing to what we had heard in regard to the condition of the Church property at Milton and Pensacola, we decided to take all needful steps to secure if possible, the property. Before however, we could visit those places, we were advised that the board at Marion had occupied the field by the appointment of Elder C. L. Thornton, who has continued since, so far as the board is advised, to occupy the field. If this occupation continues on the part of the board at Marion, the Missionary operations of the Association within its bounds, will necessarily be confined to a supply of the destitute Churches in its bounds north of Pollard. We submit to the consideration of the Association, whether, while you enjoy the preached word, you will assist the destitute Churches within your bounds.

Respectfully submitted,

A. W. JONES, Chairman.

(C.)

The Special Committee to whom the subject of Sabbath Schools has been referred; beg leave to report : That they regard Sabbath Schools as second to no other subject in point of importance which the Association has given its consideration. From such information as we have been able to obtain, there is a good work going on in the bounds of the Association, with regard to Sabbath Schools. But for better information in the future, we would urge upon the several Churches which have Sabbath Schools connected with them, to report through the Church letter to this body, the number of schools, name of superintendant, number of teachers and pupils, in regular attendance, and we feel that the Churches cannot be too strongly urged to do what they

can in forwarding the work. Parents should not only see that their children go, but should go with them. It will do them good. In view of the great importance of the subject, we would recommend the adoption by the Association, the following resolution :

Resolved: That a Committee of two be appointed for each district, to visit the Churches in such district, and encourage in every way they can the building up of Sabbath Schools, and visit such as are in progress and promote their prosperity and report at the next meeting of the body."

A. JAY, Chairman.

(D.)

Your Committee to whom was referred the responsible duty of reporting on the condition of the Colored people, regret that the time is too short to do justice to so important a subject. We venture however, to recommend to the Association, the adoption of the following resolutions, viz

Resolved: 1st. That the Christian obligations due from the whites to the blacks are not changed by the revolution through which our country has passed, and that there should be no change in church relations; the black members still should remain under the government of the whites; but as the blacks are made citizens by the laws of Congress, and hence all state restriction removed to their education, it is our duty to aid these, unfortunate people, all we can in their religious, moral and literary improvement.

2d. This in a religious point of view can best be effected by holding separate services with and for them, in which not only the Gospel in its purity be preached but also a sound and wholesome scriptural discipline exercised. These services to be conducted under the supervision of a judicious committee appointed by the Church, allowing colored members to vote in matters only pertaining to themselves, in these meetings let Conference be held and all matters of discipline transacted, and when adopted by the Church, become a part of the statistics.

3d. Believing, that in the uncultivated state of the negroes, a separation would be fraught with evil to the white members and destructive to the black membership, we recommend, that where separation has taken place, a reconciliation be effected if practicable.

This course is indicated from the following reasons :

1st. Should the Baptists, the only conservators of the whole truth as it is in JESUS, turn away from these people, they may "wrest the Scriptures to their own destruction," falling into the wildest fanaticisms, and diminish the number of witnesses for the truth, and swell the ranks of error and superstition.

2d. This is our duty, as GOD requires us to do all the good we can.

3d. It is our interest because the more they are elevated in point of morality, the safer will be our persons and property

W. C. Morrow,	} Majority Committee.
R. R. Mosley,	
Y. M. Rabb,	
S. C. Johnson.	

(B.)
Finance Report: Amount Received:

CHURCHES.	Domestic Mission.		Minutes.		CHURCHES.	Domestic Mission.		Minutes.	
	\$	Cts	\$	Cts.		\$	Cts.	\$	Cts.
Claiborne.....			1	00	Union.....			1	00
Salem.....			3	50	Georgianna			2	00
Zion.....			3	00	Milton			2	50
Monroeville.....			3	00	Brushy Creek.....			2	00
Philadelphia.....			2	25	Bethel.....			1	50
Bethany.....			2	00	Brooklyn			3	00
Pelleville.....			4	90	New Prospect.....			2	00
Arkadelphia.....			3	25	Elam.....			2	20
Beulah.....			2	50	Old Town.....			2	85
Olive Branch.....			2	50	Cedar Creek.....			1	00
Sparta.....	10	00	3	00	Damascus.....			1	65
Breckenridge.....			1	00	Pleasant Hill.....				50
Evergreen.....			2	00	Sunday Collection	23	35		
New Hope.....			2	00					
					Total.	\$33	35	\$58	05.

Respectfully Submitted,
R. P. STALLWORTH, Chairman

(F.)
Treasurers Report.
P. P. Stallworth, Treas. in Acct. with the Bethlehem Association :

DR.		CR.	
To am't for Domestic Missions....	\$33 35	By cash paid W. C Morrow,	
" " " Minutes.....	58 05	for Domestic Missions.....	\$33 35
		By am't paid S. Maxwell for	
		Printing Minutes.....	58 05
	\$91 40		
Respectfully Submitted,		R. P. STALLWORTH, Treasurer.	\$91 40.

\$58 05. Arkadelphia Church, Sept. 24, 1866.
Received of R. P. Stallworth, Treasurer of Bethlehem Association,
Fifty eight and 05—100 Dollars, for printing Minutes
S. MAXWELL.
\$33.35. Arkadelphia Church, Sept. 24, 1866.
Received of R. P. Stallworth, Treasurer of Bethlehem Association
Thirty-three and 35—100 Dollars, to be sent to State Convention for Domestic
Missions. W. C. MORROW.

TABULAR STATEMENT.

CHURCHES.	Post Office.	PASTORS.	CLERKS.	DELEGATES.	Baptised.	Received by letter.	Dismissed.	Excluded.	Restored.	Dead.	Whites.	Blacks.	Total.	Sabbath Meetings.
Stockton.....				Not represented.										
Montgomery Hill				Not represented.										
Little River.....				Not represented.										
Claiborne.....	Claiborne...	A. J. Lambert.	R. A. Lambert...	A. M. Lambert.....	.....	.....	4	.....	.....	.....	46	100	146	2
Salem.....	"	G. L. Lee.....	W. T. Newbery..	D. M. McNeil, T. Thomson, Wm. Watson.	.....	2	1	10	.....	5	127	25	152	2
Zion.....	Monroeville..	J. McWilliams.	W. D. McWilliams	T. R. Pope, M. J. Western, A. Deas.....	.....	.....	5	1	.....	.....	113	26	139	1
Monroeville.....	"	G. L. Lee.....	J. Deloach.....	T. J. Emmons, N. Bell.....	.....	.....	5	.....	.....	1	106	67	173	4
Philadelphia....	Burnt Corn..	J. McWilliams.	T. Wiggins.....	W. G. Curry.....	6	6	3	9	.....	3	92	79	171	4
Pleasant Hill. 2d. District.				Not represented.										
Bethany.....	Burnt Corn..	G. L. Lee.....	R. R. Mosley....	Elder G. L. Lee, R. R. Mosley, W. C. Nev- els, L. S. Brantly.....	4	1	.....	8	3	3	81	130	211	1
Belleville.....	Belleville...	A. Jay.....	J. Straughn.....	F. Straughn, Eld's E. Clines, A. W. Jones	.....	.....	65	.....	1	.....	.....	68	.....	4
Hopewell.....				Not represented.										
Murder Creek....	Sparta.....		J. H. Brewtoun..	Letter.....	.....	.....	4	.....	1	1	28	2	30	.....
Arkadelphia....	Belleville...	G. L. Lee.....	J. Nored.....	J. Nored, I. Hines, Elder J. M. Wood....	.....	3	3	6	1	1	85	24	109	3
Catawba Springs.				Not represented.										
Beulah.....	Sparta.....	W. C. Morrow.	J. M. Travis.....	J. M. Travis, T. Kendall.....	30	.....	4	30	.....	2	21	230	271	1
Shiloh.....				Not represented.										
Pilgrims Rest....				" "										
Pensacola.....				" "										
Olive Branch....	Evergreen...	P. S. Milner...	J. M. Yates.....	J. T. Griffin, J. M. Yates.....	5	1	8	.....	1	1	75	12	89	2
Sparta.....	Sparta.....	A. Jay.....	A. D. Cary.....	Elder A. Jay, J. M. Mathews.....	3	3	1	1	.....	.....	17	1	18	3
Breckenridge....	Evergreen...	S. Maxwell....	J. S. Martin.....	M. Stuckey, F. Brantley.....	.....	16	5	8	.....	.....	.....	.....	33	1
3d. District.														
Evergreen.....	Evergreen...	W. C. Morrow.	Y. M. Rabb.....	Elder W C Morrow, Y M Rabb S C Johnson	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
New Hope.....	Sepulga.....	S. Maxwell....	J. R. Cook.....	R. P. Stallworth, N. Siallworth.....	37	12	3	5	1	1	50	187	237	3
Union.....	Garland.....	S. Maxwell....	J. R. Ray.....	S. Maxwell, M. Wimberly.....	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	37	7	44	3
Brushy Creek....	Georgiana...	T. J. Lang.....	F. M. Mize.....	L. Garner.....	.....	5	6	2	.....	1	22	9	31	4
Oaky Streak.....				W. P. Bush T. J. Hinson.....	10	1	11	3	.....	.....	38	1	39	3
Milton.....	Milton.....		J. Barnes.....	Not represented.										
Macedonia.....				E. W. Hankens Charles Williams.....	8	15	2	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	59	.....
New Prospect....	Georgiana...	P. S. Milner...	C. P. Watt.....	Not represented.										
Georgaina.....	Georgiana...	P. S. Milner...		B. Stamps.....	.....	1	4	6	.....	.....	73	13	86	3
Brooklyn.....	Brooklyn...	A. Jay.....		P. S. Milner.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Bethel.....	South Butler	J C R Lockhart	N. Hutson.....	Letter.....	1	3	3	85	1	.....	.....	.....	57	2
Sepulga.....				E. Beasley, W. F. Thomas.....	.....	.....	17	4	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	4
Elam.....	Evergreen..	G. W. Miller..	L. B. Parker.....	Not represented.										
Sardis.....				G. M. Parker, H. L. Peoples.....	13	4	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	42	1
Plsasant Hill....				Not represented.										
Old Town.....	Evergreen..	J. Bryers.....	M. H. Daily.....	T. B. Duke.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Pine Barren.....		A. Jay.....	G. J. Scott.....	S. P. Mason, G. J. Scott.....	1	3	6	1	.....	1	70	17	87	1
Shady Grove....				Not represented.										
Little Escambia..				" "										
Coon Hill.....				" "										
Mt. Carmel.....				" "										
Cedar Creek.....	Sparta.....		I. W. Kirkland..	I. W. Kirkland.....	.....	3	4	6	.....	.....	.....	.....	18	2
Damascus.....	Evergreen..	G. W. Miller..	L. W. Manning..	L. W. Manning, J. P. Murphy.....	10	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	34	2



CIRCULAR LETTER.

THE BETHLEHEM BAPTIST ASSOCIATION, to Corresponding Associations, sendeth Christian Salutation :

Dear Brethren.—We regret that there is so little communication among us, that so few messengers from us meet with your bodies. We desire a continuation of correspondence ; and, therefore, any member of this body bearing a copy of our Minutes, please receive as Messenger.

We refer you to our Minutes for information in reference to our Master's cause in our midst. May the blessings of Heaven rest upon you, and may God preside over your deliberations.

G. L. LEE, *Moderator.*

S. MAXWELL, *Clerk.*